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BURLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MARCH 11, 2008

RECEIVED

Chairman Stephen A. Nelson called this meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:30 p.m. in the School Committee Room, Administration Offices, 123 Cambridge Street, Burlington, Massachusetts. Present: Mrs. Christine M. Monaco, Mr. Thomas F. Murphy Jr., and Mr. John L. Vanella. Acting Superintendent James Picone, Director of Finance and Operations Craig Robinson and Assistant Superintendent Cindy Marchand also in attendance. Mr. Michael F. DeSimone absent. Ways and Means members present: Nolan Glantz, Paul Noonan, and Chris Hartling.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Vanella and seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve minutes of 2/26/08; motion carried 4-0-0.
Moved by Mr. Vanella and seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve minutes of 2/27/08; motion carried 4-0-0.

APPROVAL OF WARRANT

Mr. Murphy made the following statement: As you know, since the immediate family members of three School Committee members are teachers, the Committee cannot reach a quorum due to conflicts under the Conflict of Interest Law. We have been advised by counsel to invoke the Rule of Necessity to allow us to vote on any matter involving the financial interests of such family members, and by this statement, are invoking the rule. Detailed disclosures regarding the matter were made at the Committee's April 11, 2006 meeting and recorded in the minutes, and are also on file with the Town Clerk and may be viewed in the Town Clerk's office. Moved by Mrs. Monaco and seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve the warrant; motion carried 4-0-0.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

INFORMATION/REPORTS

Acting Superintendent's Report

Dr. Picone thanked Mrs. Marchand for her informative professional development days held for staff yesterday and today. At Dr. Picone's request, Chairman Nelson signed a compliance certificate, which is part of preliminary documents required from Burlington by the SBA for the Memorial School project. Dr. Picone and Chairman Nelson thanked the BEF and Bob Conceison for their efforts in holding an assembly for BHS students with former BU hockey player Travis Roy.

Curriculum/Instruction

Mrs. Marchand reviewed offerings held for staff during the past two professional development days.

Business/Finance

Mr. Robinson reviewed the School Department updated 10-year capital plan.

Subcommittee Reports

None.

Ways & Means

The School Department FY09 budget will be presented to the Ways & Means Committee at their meeting on

April 9.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Integrated Preschool Update and Proposal

Pupil Services Director Cath Estep and Preschool Director Louise D'Amato reviewed the first year of operation for the Burlington Integrated Preschool including: enrollments, tuition, curriculum, and specifics of the program. Mr. Robinson stated that the program was on target for budget, although they had lower staff participation in health benefits which offset lower than anticipated student enrollment.

For fall 2008, they are proposing to:

- make one classroom pre-k only (eight 4-year olds)
- neighborhood students attend 5 days
- increase tuition by \$125 per month (due to 2 extra days per week attendance)
- target children that benefit more from a program being integrated 5 days
- program would assimilate move to a K program

Mr. Murphy asked how they would handle over enrollment; Mrs. D'Amato noted they'd distribute a survey to parents and then use a lottery system. As this is a first reading, this item will be put on the 3/18 meeting agenda.

2008-09 School Calendar - First Reading

Dr. Picone reviewed the draft 2008-09 school calendar, which is subject to negotiation. He will send the draft calendar to the BEA and ask for comments. Professional development days are scheduled singly next year at the request of principals and teachers.

FY09 Budget Review Elementary Schools

Elementary principals Jane Dwyer, Susan Astone, and Eric Sprung were in attendance. The total projected budget for the four elementary schools is up 3.87% (+\$353,911). Salaries increased 3.91% (+\$349,451), contracted services are up .78% (+\$390), and equipment is up 11.96% (+\$550). Additional staffing: 2 teachers, 2 math coaches, .2 art teacher, and 2 instructional assistants at Fox Hill. A classroom teacher will be added at Pine Glen and Fox Hill; to accommodate the additional class at each school: Fox Hill will move a special education class to a Memorial portable and Pine Glen will refurbish the computer room and teach computers from laptops on a cart. Elementary textbooks are down 5% (-\$4,670) due to the start of a new lease program.

Special Education

Dr. Estep, Julie Woodland, Joe Attubato, and Louise D'Amato were in attendance. The SPED budget is up 14.9% (+\$378,635). Salaries are up 14% (\$336,372) with a net increase of 3 staff: reinstate BHS SPED inclusion teacher, absorb Alt. Ed. program into SPED program,

hire an additional speech/language pathologist at Francis Wyman due to increased enrollment, reduce a speech/language assistant at Francis Wyman, add inclusion I/A at Memorial, add a K-2 language based assistant at Francis Wyman, and add a .2 ELL teacher at the elementary level. Contracted services is up 38% (+\$20,500) due to a software upgrade, translations, summer audit work and legal fees. Equipment is up 100% (+\$24,190) to purchase computers and software programs.

Guidance

Guidance is up 3% (+\$35,377). Salaries increased 3% (+\$29,028), contracted services is up 33% (+\$2,980), supplies increased 62% (+\$4368) for a guidance program at the middle school, and equipment decreased -50% (-\$1000). Mr. Attubato reviewed an unfunded staffing proposal for an adjustment counselor at the high school.

ESL

ESL is up 45% (+\$50,202) due to salary increases.

SPED Accommodated Accounts

Mr. Robinson reviewed the town-side expenses of Special Education which are projected to be up 11% (+\$601,853) due to tuition and transportation costs. Dr. Picone stated that the LABBB Board of Directors had awarded Burlington a credit of \$334,000, which will be utilized by tuition credits. Mr. Robinson was requested to present a list of recommended warrant articles for May town meeting and supply revised SPED accommodated account budget sheets for the next meeting.

Athletics

Athletics has been postponed until the March 25 meeting.

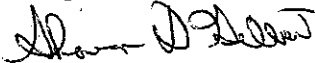
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Vanella and seconded by Mr. Murphy at 10:20 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon D. Gilbert
Recording Secretary

Date submitted: 3/18/08

Date approved: 3/18/08

BURLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MARCH 11, 2008
Agenda

RECEIVED

2008 MAR -7 AM 10:30



Notice is hereby given in accordance with Chapter 39, Section 23B of the General Laws that a meeting of the Burlington School Committee will be held on Tuesday, March 11, at **7:30 p.m.** in the School Committee Room, Administration Offices, 123 Cambridge Street, Burlington, Massachusetts.

TOWN CLERK
BURLINGTON, MA

1. Pledge of Allegiance – **7:30 p.m.**
2. Approval of Warrant
3. Approval of Minutes of 2/26 and 2/27
4. Public Participation
5. Information/Reports
 - a. Student Representative
 - b. Acting Superintendent's Report
 - c. Curriculum/Instruction
 - d. Business/Finance
 - e. Subcommittee Reports
 - f. Ways/Means
6. Old Business
7. New Business
 - a. Integrated Preschool Update and Proposal
 - b. 2008-09 School Calendar – First Reading
 - c. FY09 Budget Review – Elementary Schools, SPED, Guidance, Alternative Ed. and Athletics
8. Public Participation
7. Executive Session
 - a. Approval of Executive Minutes of 1/8/08, 1/22/08, 2/4/08, 2/5/08, 2/6/08, 2/27/08, and 3/4/08
 - b. Contract Negotiations
10. Adjournment